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## **Istook Joins Effort to Enforce Immigration Laws**

*Washington, D.C.* - Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK) joined over 80 other members of Congress in opposing "guestworker" programs for illegal aliens, and proposing instead that current immigration laws should be better enforced.

In a letter to President Bush, Istook and the other lawmakers note that problems got worse, not better, under previous efforts that allowed illegal immigrants to stay and work in the U.S.

**"Whether they were called 'amnesty' or 'guest worker programs', they created more incentives for people to break the law than to obey the laws," Istook said.**

**"Maintaining and protecting our borders is not only an immigration issue, it's a national security issue," added Istook. "That's why I continue to work to boost enforcement, both at the border and within the country. We need state and local authorities to help us, too, or we'll never fix the problem. What's the use of having laws if we don't enforce them? Our state government has even created bad incentives, such as a new law that gives cheaper in-state tuition to people that are here illegally, in direct violation of a long-time federal law."**

Lawmakers point to the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act as an example of the federal government's unwillingness to enforce laws against illegal immigration.

**Said Istook, "The law called for the implementation of an exit/entry system designed to track all illegal immigrants, but nine years later we still don't have one."**

Between 12 and 20 million illegal immigrants currently live and work in the United States with more entering the country every day.

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